



## **Australian Industry and Skills Committee**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Support for the Manufacturing, Automotive and Mining and Drilling sectors**

Mr John Pollaers, Chair of the Australian Industry and Skills Committee, welcomed today's announcement by the Hon Karen Andrews MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills of the new Skills Service Organisations for the manufacturing, automotive and mining and drilling sectors from 1 January 2017.

"The Government introduced new arrangements into the training system earlier this year with the establishment of five Skills Service Organisations. The Minister's announcement today completes this important selection process" Mr Pollaers said.

Skills Service Organisations provide independent professional support to their Industry Reference Committees (IRCs). These Committees are the core of the new arrangements – driving the process of training package development and ensuring that those packages meet the needs of their industry sector.

"I welcome the appointment of the final SSOs and would like to congratulate Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) who will be providing services to the manufacturing sector IRCs and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Skills for Australia, who will be the provider for the automotive and mining and drilling sector IRCs" Mr Pollaers said.

"Over the last 10 months, we have seen a range of significant benefits from the operation of the new arrangements and the Minister's decision will ensure this progress continues.

"This decision provides certainty for the Industry Reference Committees in the manufacturing, automotive and mining and drilling sectors and I will be working closely with the Chairs of those Committees to effect a smooth transition to the new providers between now and January.

"I would also like to thank Manufacturing Skills Australia, SkillsDMC and Auto Skills Australia for the work they have done throughout the year in supporting these Industry Reference Committees through the initial phase of the new arrangements" Mr Pollaers said.

"Of course, industry stakeholders in the manufacturing, automotive and mining and drilling sectors can apply for positions on their IRC under the current review process. Nominations are currently being called for the five automotive sector IRCs and the five mining and drilling sector IRCs and I would encourage all industry stakeholders to become involved and nominate for positions on these committees. More information is available on the AISC website" Mr Pollaers said.

More information about Skills Service Organisations and the review of Industry Reference Committees (including the call for nominations for IRCs) can be found at [www.aisc.net.au](http://www.aisc.net.au).

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